

Application No.: 10/057,667
Amendment and Response dated December 27, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 27, 2004
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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application, as follows:

Claim 1. (previously presented): A method of making a tubular stent/graft assembly comprising the steps of (i) forming a substantially planar strip and wire assembly comprising an essentially flat, planar graft strip formable into a graft and an essentially flat, planar stent wire formable into a radially adjustable stent, wherein said wire is attached lengthwise along the length of said planar strip and further wherein said graft strip is formed by extruding, casting or molding polymeric material; and (ii) helically winding said substantially planar strip and wire assembly to form said tubular stent/graft assembly.

Claim 2. (previously presented): The method of claim 1 further including forming said planar strip and wire assembly by positioning said planar stent wire between two layers of said planar graft strip.

Claim 3. (previously presented): The method of claim 2 wherein said layers of planar graft strip are laminated together.

Claim 4. (previously presented): The method of claim 3 wherein said planar strip and wire assembly comprises multiple layers of graft strip on each side of said stent wire.

Claim 5. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the planar graft strip is an extruded strip of polymeric graft material.

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Claim 6. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of helically winding said substantially planar strip and wire assembly further includes winding the assembly so that at least two consecutive windings overlap.

Claim 7. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of helically winding said substantially planar strip and wire assembly further includes winding the assembly so that consecutive windings do not overlap.

Claim 8. (previously presented): A method of making a stent/graft assembly comprising:

forming a substantially planar graft and stent material assembly comprising an essentially flat, planar graft strip and an essentially flat, planar stent material, wherein said graft strip is formed by extruding, casting or molding polymeric material; and winding said substantially planar graft and stent assembly to form said stent/graft assembly.

Claim 9. (original): The method of claim 8, wherein the step of forming said substantially planar graft and stent assembly further includes undulating said stent material along its length.

Claim 10. (original): The method of claim 8, wherein said stent material is an elongate stent wire.

Claim 11. (previously presented): The method of claim 8, wherein said graft strip is an extruded planar strip of polymeric graft material.

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Claim 12. (previously presented): The method of claim 8, wherein the step of forming said substantially planar graft and stent material assembly further includes positioning said stent material between two layers of graft strip.

Claim 13. (previously presented): The method of claim 12, further including the step of laminating said two layers of graft strip together.

Claim 14. (original): The method of claim 8, wherein the step of winding said substantially planar graft and stent assembly includes winding said assembly so that at least two consecutive windings overlap.

Claim 15. (original): The method of claim 8, wherein the step of winding said substantially planar graft and stent assembly includes winding said assembly so that consecutive windings do not overlap.

Claim 16. (original): The method of claim 8, wherein the step of winding said substantially planar graft and stent assembly further includes helically winding said assembly to form a tubular structure.

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Claim 17. (previously presented): A method of making a tubular stent/graft assembly comprising the steps of (i) forming a substantially planar strip and stent assembly comprising an essentially flat, planar graft strip formable into a graft and an essentially flat, planar stent formable into a radially adjustable stent, wherein said planar stent is attached along the length of said planar strip and further wherein said graft strip is formed by extruding, casting or molding polymeric material; and (ii) helically winding said substantially planar strip and stent assembly to form said tubular stent/graft assembly.

Claim 18. (previously presented): The method of claim 17 further including forming said planar strip and stent assembly by positioning said planar stent assembly between two layers of said planar graft strip.

Claim 19. (previously presented): The method of claim 18 wherein said layers of planar graft strip are laminated together.

Claim 20. (previously presented): The method of claim 17 wherein the planar graft strip is an extruded strip of polymeric graft material.

Claim 21. (previously presented): The method of claim 17 wherein the step of helically winding said substantially planar strip and stent assembly further includes winding the assembly so that at least two consecutive windings overlap.

Claim 22. (previously presented): The method of claim 17 wherein the step of helically winding said substantially planar strip and stent assembly further includes winding the assembly so that consecutive windings do not overlap.

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Claim 23. (previously presented): The method of claim 17 wherein said planar stent comprises a plurality of stent wires.

Claim 24. (previously presented): The method of claim 17 wherein said planar stent comprises a plurality of linked stent wires.

Claim 25. (previously presented): The method of claim 17 wherein said planar stent is comprised of nitinol.

Claim 26. (previously presented): The method of claim 17 wherein said planar stent is attached lengthwise along the length of said planar strip.